REMARKS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The amendments proposed in this Response address the issues on pages 2-4 of the office action. Claims 12-35 are similar in scope to the cancelled claims. No new matter has been added. Entry and allowance are requested.

Since Applicant has presented a novel, unique and nonobvious invention, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

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January 7, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice.

Kindly add the following claims:

- 12. A fibre mat manufacturing method comprising harvesting and threshing plants, retting stems of the plants, shortening and separating the plant stems, pre-treating the plants, forming a fibre mass of vegetable fibres, forming a mat with randomly oriented fibres by a dry forming process, forming inter-fibre bonds between the fibres and fixing the mat with the bonded fibres.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the retting comprises retting the stems wholly.
- 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the retting comprises retting the stems partially.
- 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the forming inter-fibre bonds comprises partially establishing the bonds when the fibres are fibrillated.
- 16. The method of claim 12, further comprising drying the fibres to have a desired water content.
- 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the forming fibres comprises forming single fibres.
- 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the lengths of each of the single fibres are between about 0.1 mm to about 30 mm.
 - 19. The method of claim 12, wherein the shortening

comprises processing the fibres to lengths between about 3 mm and $20\ \text{mm}$.

- 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the shortening comprises processing the fibres to lengths between about 4 mm and 15 mm.
- 21. The method of claim 12, wherein the retting comprises retting the fibres partially on the field.
- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the retting comprises further controlled retting in water containing enzymes, and wherein the controlled retting occurs before the shortening.
- 23. The method of claim 12, wherein the forming inter-fibre bonds comprises applying binders and establishing the inter-fibre bonds.
- 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the applying binders comprises applying binders selected from the group consisting of organic binders, synthetic organic binders, natural binders, and combinations thereof.
- 25. The method of claim 12, wherein the harvesting comprises harvesting plants selected from the group consisting of flax, hemp and combinations thereof.
- 26. The method of claim 12, wherein the pre-treatment further comprises scutching the stems in a hammer mill, wherein the shortening further comprises shortening the fibres to a desired length and separating the fibres within a desired length interval by a rotating riddle, and wherein the dry-forming comprises forming some of the fibres into the mat by blowing the

fibres into a forming head disposed above a forming wire.

- 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the forming the mat comprises adding between about 0 % and 50 % binder and fixing the formed mat.
- 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the forming the mat comprises forming the mat with between about 0 % and 10 % shives.
- 29. The method of claim 12, wherein the shortening and separating the fibres comprises shortening and separating in a dry condition, and wherein the pre-treatment comprises pulping the fibres by boiling the fibres in pure water under pressure or in an extruder, chemically treating the fibres, washing and drying the fibres before dry-forming the fibres into the mat.
- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the chemically treating comprises treating with a base.
- 31. The method of claim 12, wherein the forming the mat comprises forming a mat having a non-woven mat character.
- 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the forming the mat comprises forming the mat with a thickness between about 2 mm and 300 mm, and with gram weights between about 30 g/m² and 8000 g/m².
- 33. The method of claim 12, wherein the forming the mat comprises forming an absorbing fibre mat.
- 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the forming the absorbing mat comprises incorporating the absorbing mat in a molded composite product.
 - 35. The method of claim 33, wherein the forming the

absorbing mat comprises incorporating the absorbing mat in a strongly reinforced composite product.